

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

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P 132204Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I FOOD AID FOR INDIA

1. INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE (ISC) HAS APPROVED FY 1976 PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR INDIA SUBJECT TO THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS AND NAC CLEARANCES. THE COMMODITY COMPOSITION CONSISTS OF 400,000 MT OF WHEAT AND 200,000 MT OF RICE (WITH A TOTAL EXPORT MARKET VALUE OF DOLS. 110.8 MILLION) FOR SHIPMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1976. FINANCIAL TERMS REMAIN SAME AS FY 1975.

2. WE ARE REQUESTING NAC CLEARANCE AND HAVE INITIATED THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS ON RICE AND WHEAT WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY END OF THIS MONTH.

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3. THE LARGE U.S. RICE CROP AND PRIORITY DEMANDS FOR PL 480 TITLE I WHEAT TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES HAVE NECESSITATED ALLOCATION OF RICE AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S FOOD GRAIN PROGRAM FOR MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDIA. PROGRAMMING OF THIS RICE TO INDIA IS NECESSARY IF USG IS TO MEET RICE PROGRAM GOAL OF 850,000 MT UNDER THE TITLE I PROGRAM IN FY 1976 AND TRANSITIONAL QUARTER OF WHICH CONGRESS AND U.S. TRADE ARE AWARE.

4. IN VIEW SENSITIVITY AND KEEN INTEREST OF U.S. FARMERS, TRADE AND CONGRESS TO PL 480 RICE PROGRAMMING, ESPECIALLY SINCE 200,000 MT FOR INDIA AND 240,000 MT FOR BANGLADESH ARE KEY PROGRAMS FOR MEETING OVERALL GOAL, WE SEEK EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE GOI REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR THE INCLUSION OF RICE IN TITLE I FOOD GRAIN PACKAGE FOR FY 1976. DO NOT RPT DO NOT CONSULT WITH GOI ON THIS QUESTION AT THIS TIME. IN EFFORT TO MAKE ACCEPTABLE TO GOI, WE WILL NOT REQUEST LIMITATION ON EXPORTS OF AROMATIC (BASMATI TYPE) RICE DURING FY 1976. THIS RICE NOT COMPARABLE TO U.S. RICE WHICH INDIA WOULD BE RECEIVING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE BEST ASSESSMENT GOI WILLINGNESS ACCEPT RICE AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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